Order 96-2-12 Served 2/13/96

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C.

Issued by the Department of Transportation on the 7th day of February, 1996

Agreement Among Member Carriers of the

Docket OST-95-871 INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION R-1 through R-13

concerning passenger services matters:

ORDER

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has filed an agreement with the Department for approval and exemption from antitrust laws under sections 41309 and 41308 of Title 49 of the United States Code. The agreement was adopted at the Seventeenth Passenger Services Conference held in Faro during October 10-12, 1995. <u>1</u>/

Intended for expedited effectiveness on various dates beginning with December 1, 1995, the agreement consists of resolutions and recommended practices (R.P.'s) affecting passenger services. They address codes, formats and procedures relating to tickets, boarding passes, baggage checks and travel documents; and the standard numbering system for traffic documents. The proposals involve non-substantive changes, essentially of a technical, editorial or administrative nature, to existing approved resolutions and recommended practices. These include an increase from \$350 to \$750 in the value limit on miscellaneous charges orders (MCO's) issued for unspecified transportation or other services, and revised technical specifications for certain manually issued passenger tickets to speed invoicing of credit card charges. These changes to approved IATA passenger service procedures appear to be in conformity with our substantive policies and concerns. As such, they raise no public interest issues, and will be approved. The individual resolutions and recommended practices are listed in the attached Appendix, along with their subject matter and areas of applicability.

^{1/} IATA memoranda PSC/Reso/081 and 082, filed with the Department on November 27, 1995. IATA's 17th Passenger Services Conference was held in conjunction with the Sixteenth Joint ATA/IATA Passenger Services Conference.

Section 41309 of the Code directs us to approve any agreement or modification of an agreement if we find that it will not substantially lessen competition, and is not adverse to the public interest or in violation of the Code. We find that the agreement in Docket OST-95-871 is not adverse to the public interest, in violation of the Act, or likely to lessen competition substantially, and that it should be approved.

Furthermore, we conclude that the approved agreement should be granted immunity from the operation of the antitrust laws to the extent necessary to permit its implementation. The agreement amends existing provisions already approved and immunized by the Department. As a result, none raises immunity issues not previously considered, and the conferral of immunity upon them is consistent with our policy of conferring immunity on amendments coextensively with the underlying agreements.

Pursuant to the authority duly assigned under the Department's Regulations 14 CFR 385.13:

We do not find that Resolutions R-1 through R-13 of the agreement in Docket OST-95-871, as set forth in the attached Appendix, are adverse to the public interest, in violation of the Code, or likely to lessen competition substantially.

ACCORDINGLY,

- 1. We approve R-1 through R-13 of the agreement in Docket OST-95-871, as listed in the attached appendix, under 49 U.S.C. 41309; and
- 2. To the extent that R-1 through R-13 of the agreement in Docket OST-95-871 are approved, we exempt any person affected by this order from the operation of the antitrust laws as provided in 49 U.S.C. 41308.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order, under 14 CFR 385.50, may file such petitions within ten days after the date of service of this order.

This order shall be effective and become the action of the Department of Transportation upon expiration of the above period, unless within such period a petition for review is filed or the Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs gives notice that he will review this order on his own motion.

By:

Paul L. Gretch Director, Office of International Aviation

(SEAL)

Appendix
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Docket OST-95-871	IATA Designation	IATA Resolution Title	Expiry Date
R-1	PSC(17)721	Bank Settlement Plan Passenger Ticket and Baggage Check- Technical Specifications (Amending)	Indefinite
R-2	PSC(17)725	Miscellaneous Charges Order- Technical Specifications (Amending)	Indefinite
R-3	PSC(17)725a	Miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO)Issuance and Honoring Procedures by Members (Amending)	Indefinite
R-4	PSC(17)725c	Automated Miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO)Carrier (Coupon-by-Coupon) (Amending)	Indefinite
R-5	PSC(17)726a	Multiple Purpose Document (MPI Carrier, Carbonized, Automated (Amending)	O)Indefinite
R-6	PSC(17)728	Code Designators for Passenger Ticket and Baggage Check (Amending)	c Indefinite
R-7	PSC(17)731	Prepaid Ticket Advice (Amending)	Indefinite
R-8	PSC(17)742e	Automated Excess Baggage Ticket, Carrier (Coupon-by- Coupon) (Amending)	Indefinite
R-9	PSC(17)742f	Automated Excess Baggage Ticket, Neutral (Coupon-by- Coupon) (Amending)	Indefinite

R-10	PSC(17)743b	Baggage Identification Chart (Amending)	Indefinite
R-11	PSC(17)1720a	Standard Thirteen Digit Numbering System for Traffic Documents (Amending)	
R-12	PSC(17)728	Code Designators for Passenger Ticket and Baggage Check (Amending)	Indefinite

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Docket	: IATA		Expiry
OST-95-8	371 Designation	IATA Resolution Title	<u>Date</u>
R-13	PSC(17)1720a	Standard Thirteen Digit	
		Numbering System for	
		Traffic Documents (Amending)	